

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03308 261526Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----261557Z 056780 /40
O 261500Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4167

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3308

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, CU
SUBJ: REPORTED NEWS CONFERENCE IN LONDON GIVEN BY AMB. YOUNG

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT AMB YOUNG GAVE NEWS CONFERENCE
THIS MORNING IN LONDON AT WHICH HE COMMENTED ON CUBAN
ADVISORS WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE ARRIVED IN ETHIOPIA, SAYING
THEY MIGHT BE MORE RATIONAL THAN THE ETHIOPIANS AND
HELP STOP BLOODSHED THERE.

2. AMB YOUNG WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS
OF 50 CUBAN ADVISORS IN ETHIOPIA AND SAID DEPT HAS EX-
PRESSED GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THEM AND HE GUESSED HE SHOULD
TOO. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WAS SPEAKING FROM THE HEART,
AMB YOUNG REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT HE REALLY WAS NOT--"THEY ARE
KILLING PEOPLE RIGHT AND LEFT IN ETHIOPIA AND I GUESS
I THINK MAYBE THE CUBANS MIGHT BE A LITTLE MORE RATIONAL
THAN ETHIOPIANS AT THIS POINT. IT DEPENDS ON WHAT
CUBANS ADVISE. IF THEIR ADVICE CAN STOP KILLINGS IT
MIGHT BE A GOOD THING. IF THE ADVISORS ESCALATE
THE KILLING, IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE."

3. WE HAVE JUST SEEN WIRELESS FILE QUOTING DEPT
SPOKESMAN AS "CONFIRMING" MAY 25 THAT 50 CUBAN MILI-
TARY ADVISORS HAVE ARRIVED IN ETHIOPIA AND WARNING
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THAT IF MORE ARE ON THEIR WAY, IT WOULD BE A
SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT, A STATEMENT THAT WE WOULD HAVE
APPRECIATED KNOWING ABOUT BEFORE NOW AND HAVING
HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ABOUT BEFORE IT WAS
MADE.

4. IF AMB YOUNG IS BEING QUOTED CORRECTLY, HIS

STATEMENTS ARE NOT GOING TO HELP OUR POSITION HERE,
AND WE CAN EXPECT ETHIOPIAN TO REACT BADLY. I
WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS BY
OPENING OF BUSINESS TOMORROW MORNING ABOUT WHAT
I CAN SAY TO MOFA IF ASKED. IF QUERIED BY PRESS,
WE SHALL REFER ALL QUESTIONS TO DEPT.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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